

Chattahoochee Forest

National Fish Hatchery

photo: USFWS



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Station Facts

- Established: 1938.
- FY 98 budget: \$247,000.
- Number of staff: four permanent.

Geographic Area Covered

State of Georgia.

Station Goals

- Fulfilling mitigation responsibilities for Federal water development projects to the State of Georgia.
- Providing Fish and Wildlife assistance to tribes.
- Providing recreational fishing opportunities on Service lands.
- Assisting other Federal agencies with the management of fishery resources.

Services provided to

- Federal and state agencies.
- Native American Tribes.
- Military bases.
- Other Fish and Wildlife Service program offices.

Activity Highlights

- Approximately 130,000 pounds of trout are produced each year.
- Production is used to compensate impacts of Federal water development projects in Northern Georgia.
- Fingerling trout and technical assistance are provided to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina.
- Approximately 60,000 visitors tour the hatchery each year. Three major fishing events are held annually at the facility with a total of more than 2,000 people attending. These special events promote recreational fishing on Service lands and introduce the public to the Fish and Wildlife Service and its mission.

- The Chattahoochee Forest NFH is part of the Southern Appalachian Ecosystem.

Fish species and capabilities

- More than 130,000 pounds of rainbow trout are produced each year.
- Production is used to compensate impacts of Federal water development projects in northern Georgia.
- Fingerling trout (approximately 300,000) and technical assistance are provided to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina.

Public Use Opportunities

- The Chattahoochee Forest NFH provides environmental education and public outreach opportunities to visitors, school groups, and various other organizations. The public use program is designed to support the southern Appalachian Ecosystem and to develop a greater outreach for recreational fishing opportunities.
- The beautiful surroundings and natural environment draw a lot of visitors to the hatchery. A visitor center, a visitor kiosk, and an opportunity to view the fish in various stages of production prove to be a great attraction. Rock Creek, which runs through hatchery property, offers a great trout fishing opportunity.
- U.S. Forest Service campgrounds are located both above and below the hatchery.

Calendar of Events

June: Youth Fishing Rodeo for children ages 1-16. Senior Citizen Rodeo for seniors 55 and over.

March to September: stocking season.

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Questions and Answers

What kind of fish do you raise?

Rainbow trout.

Where do you get the eggs to hatch the fish?

We get our eggs from the Erwin National Fish Hatchery in Erwin, TN.

How big are the fish when you stock them out?

The fish are approximately nine inches long when we stock them out.

How long does it take to get the fish from an egg stage to nine inches?

It takes approximately 12-16 months to get a nine-inch stockable size fish.

Do you provide fish to private individuals?

All the fish raised at this facility are stocked into public waters.